

CAPSULE SUMMARY
CT-1286
Eureka Lodge No. 36
5583 Mackall Road
St. Leonard, Calvert County
Ca. 1949
Private

Eureka Lodge No. 36 is located at 5583 Mackall Road in St. Leonard, Calvert County, Maryland. Constructed circa 1949, the meeting hall was built for the Eureka Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland. It served as their primary meeting place until 1968, when the property was sold to the Brooks Methodist Church, which is located directly across the street. Prior to construction of Eureka Lodge No. 36, the property was owned by the Calvert Lodge of Grand United Order of Odd Fellows No. 2171, who had owned the property since 1884. Both the Eureka Lodge No. 36 and the Calvert Lodge of Grand United Order of Odd Fellows No. 2171 had African-American memberships. Eureka Lodge No. 36 is characteristic of the African-American fraternal lodges that were constructed in Calvert County in the middle of the 20th century.

Constructed circa 1949, the masonry building features a concrete block structural system and foundation. Standing two stories in height and two bays in width, the building is covered by a front-gabled roof clad in standing seam metal. An interior-end brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises above the northern slope of the roof. The window openings all contain multi-light metal sash windows with paired casements set beneath fixed transoms. Concrete-block buttresses at the center of each wall detail the side elevations.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1286

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Eureka Lodge No. 36 (preferred)

other Victoria Lodge

2. Location

street and number 5583 Mackall Road not for publication

city, town St. Leonard vicinity

county Calvert

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Brooks United Methodist Church

street and number 5550 Mackall Road telephone 410/586-3972

city, town St. Leonard state MD zip code 20685-2388

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse tax map and parcel: M34, P58

city, town Prince Frederic liber JLB folio 350

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1286

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Eureka Lodge No. 36 is located at 5583 Mackall Road in St. Leonard, Calvert County, Maryland. Situated close to the road with large trees surrounding it, the meeting hall is sited directly across the street from Brooks United Methodist Church. Constructed circa 1949, the masonry building features a concrete block structural system and foundation. Standing two stories in height and two bays in width, the building is covered by a front-gabled roof clad in standing seam metal. An interior-end brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises above the northern slope of the roof. The window openings all contain multi-light metal sash windows with paired casements set beneath fixed transoms. Concrete-block buttresses at the center of each wall detail the side elevations.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The façade or east elevation is pierced by a single-leaf side entry with a five-panel wood door and a concrete lug lintel. To the north of this opening is a paired window, also with a concrete lug lintel. Like those located throughout the building, the window consists of eight-light casement windows set beneath two-light fixed transoms. This is the only paired window on the building. These openings are mimicked at the second story by two single window openings, also with metal industrial windows. Unlike the windows on the first story, these windows do not have lug lintels. This elevation is further detailed by asbestos shingles in the gable end.

The north elevation of Eureka Lodge No. 36 is three bays in width with a centrally located concrete block buttress. Flanking the buttress on both the first and second stories are metal industrial windows. These windows on the first story are capped by concrete lug lintels. At the northwest corner of this elevation is a single-leaf door opening that has been boarded shut with plywood. Visible detailing is confined to the rowlock brick sill.

Like the façade, the west elevation is also two bays wide with asbestos shingles in the gable end. At both the first and second stories are two metal industrial windows. Those on the first story feature concrete lug lintels.

The south elevation is similar to the north elevation with a centrally located concrete-block buttress. The buttress is flanked at both the first and second stories by metal industrial windows. The first story is further pierced by an additional metal industrial window. All of the windows on the first story feature concrete lug lintels.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the building was not accessible at the time of survey.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-1286

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	c1949, 1968	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	c1949		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Eureka Lodge No. 36 is located at 5583 Mackall Road in St. Leonard, Calvert County, Maryland. Constructed circa 1949, the meeting hall was built for the Eureka Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland. It served as their primary meeting place until 1968, when the property was sold to the Brooks Methodist Church, which is located directly across the street. Prior to construction of Eureka Lodge No. 36, the property was owned by the Calvert Lodge of Grand United Order of Odd Fellows No. 2171, who had owned the property since 1884. Both the Eureka Lodge No. 36 and the Calvert Lodge of Grand United Order of Odd Fellows No. 2171 had African-American memberships. Eureka Lodge No. 36 is characteristic of the African-American fraternal lodges that were constructed in Calvert County in the middle of the 20th century.

HISTORY OF EUREKA LODGE NO. 36

The property on which Eureka Lodge No. 36 now stands was originally owned by James and Nora Thomas, who sold the quarter-acre-tract of land to the Calvert Lodge of Grand United Order of Odd Fellows No. 2171 on April 11, 1884 for \$45. The Odd Fellows constructed a meeting hall on this location and it first appears on historic maps in 1902. At this time, the United States Geological Survey map of Calvert County showed the topography of the area and the presence of buildings. However, the use of the building was not noted on the map. Oral history states that this older building was demolished and that the current building was erected circa 1949. This supposition is supported by historic deeds, architectural detailing, and building materials.

The Odd Fellows retained ownership of the tract of land until February 2, 1949, when it was sold to the Eureka Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland for five dollars. Masons Eugene O. Johnson, Edward Boome, and Nathan Smith acted as Trustees for the Eureka Lodge. The Masons continued to meet at this hall in St. Leonard for nearly twenty years, before selling the property to the Brooks Methodist Church in 1968. At that time, the church acquired four additional parcels of land from St. Lukes Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage, Rebecca Bourne, James and Ida Parker, and Orem and Lola Denton. The five parcels totaled 5.45 acres of land. The mortgage, which is recorded following the deed, records that the parcels of land were purchased for \$35,000. Eureka Lodge No. 36 was the precursor to the Carroll-Victoria Lodge of Masons, associated with Prince Hall.

Through the years, Calvert County has hosted a number of fraternal organizations, both national and regional. Whereas fraternal organizations in urban areas tend to be geared towards professional advancement, such organizations in rural locations like Calvert County with highly dispersed populations serve a more basic social function in bringing together individuals who might otherwise have little contact with their neighbors. Yet, even in rural communities, fraternal organizations were a means to political recognition and commercial networking, and prominent local citizens invariably belong to one or several fraternal organizations. Historically, the largest and most well established of these were the freemasons, or Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, who established themselves in Prince Frederick by 1869.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CT-1286

Name Eureka Lodge No. 36 (preferred)

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

The Masons, or Freemasons, are a ritual-based fraternal brotherhood dating back to the 16th century. The Masons developed out of medieval builders' guilds and they view God as the Great Architect and builders as doing God's work. (1) Freemasons, united by their common belief in one creator, proclaim their dedication to brotherly love, or fraternity, "relief," or charity, and truth to himself, God, country, fellow man and family. (2) Although founded and originally based in Great Britain, the Masons reached their greatest strength in the United States between the last third of the 19th century and the first third of the 20th century. In 1879, it was estimated that there were 550,000 Freemasons in the United States, a number that grew dramatically in the following fifty years, reaching over three million by 1925. (3) "By the 1920s most towns in the United States boasted a lodge of Freemasons, and every lodge had a room, a "Mason's Holy House," dedicated and set aside for the performance of Masonic rituals." (4)

CHAIN OF TITLE

April 11, 1884: James S. Thomas and Nora E. Thomas to Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, Calvert Lodge No. 2171
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber SS 6 Folio 203

February 26, 1949: George J. Gross, James A. Mason, J. Thomas Chase, Trustees of Calvert Lodge of Grand United Order of Odd Fellows No. 2171 of Calvert County, to Eugene O. Johnson, Edward Boome, and Nathan Smith, Trustees of Eureka Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AWR 18 Folio 270

June 22, 1968: Trustees of Brooks United Methodist Church and Parsonage; St. Lukes Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage; Trustees of Eureka Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland; Rebecca Bourne; James E. and Ida Parker; and Orem W. and Lola M. Denton to Brooks Methodist Church
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JLB 101 Folio 350

ENDNOTES

1. Charles Paul Freund, "From Satan to the Sphinx: The Masonic Mysteries of D.C.'s Map," The Washington Post, November 5, 1995, Section C, p. 3.
2. "The Principles of Freemasonry." On the World Wide Web at www.masonicfax.com/principles.htm.
3. William D. Moore, "The Masonic Lodge Room, 1870-1930: A Sacred Space of Masculine Spiritual Hierarchy," Gender, Class, and Shelter: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, V, Elizabeth Collins Cromley and Carter L. Hudgins, editors (Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee Press, 1995), p. 26.
4. Moore.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1286

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.25 Acres

Acreage of historical setting 0.25 Acres

Quadrangle name Broomes Island

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Eureka Lodge No. 36 has been associated with Parcel 58, as denoted on Tax Map 34, since its construction circa 1949.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Albee, Architectural Historians

organization E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.

date 8/26/02

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, N.W.

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

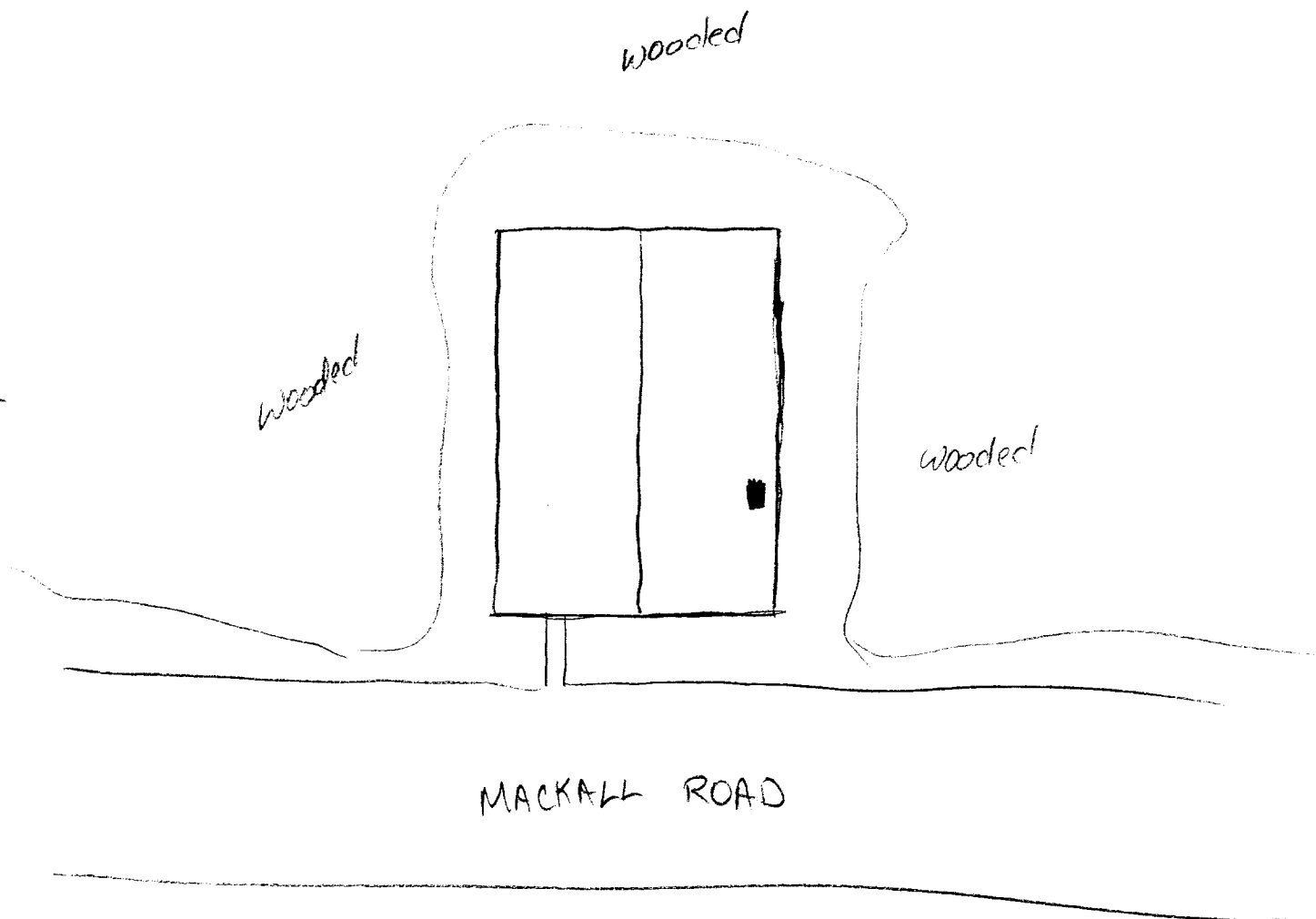
state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

CT-1286



RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

CT-1286

EUREKA LODGE NO. 36

5583 MACKALL ROAD

ST. LEONARD, CALVERT COUNTY, MD

N →

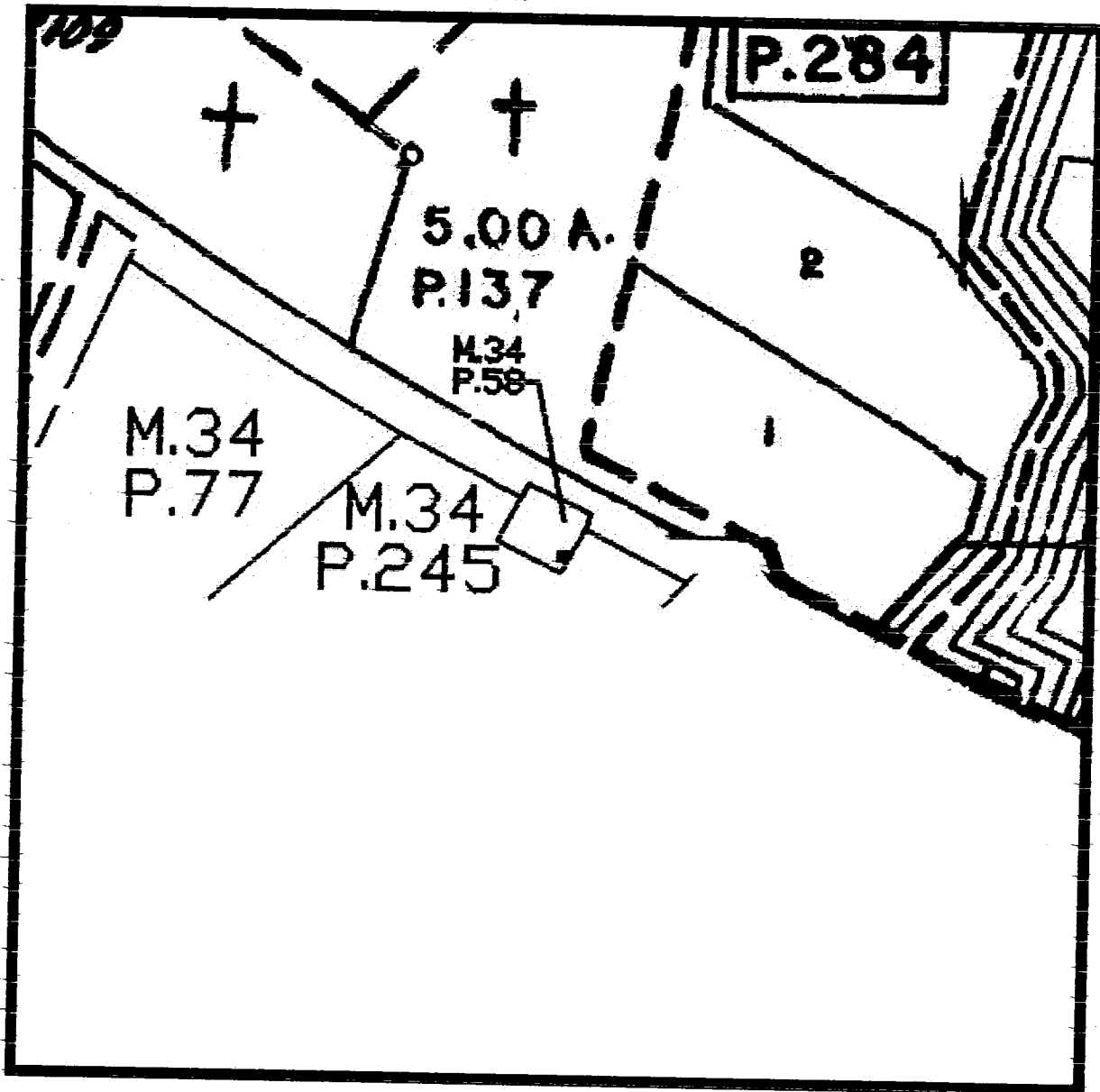
CT-1286



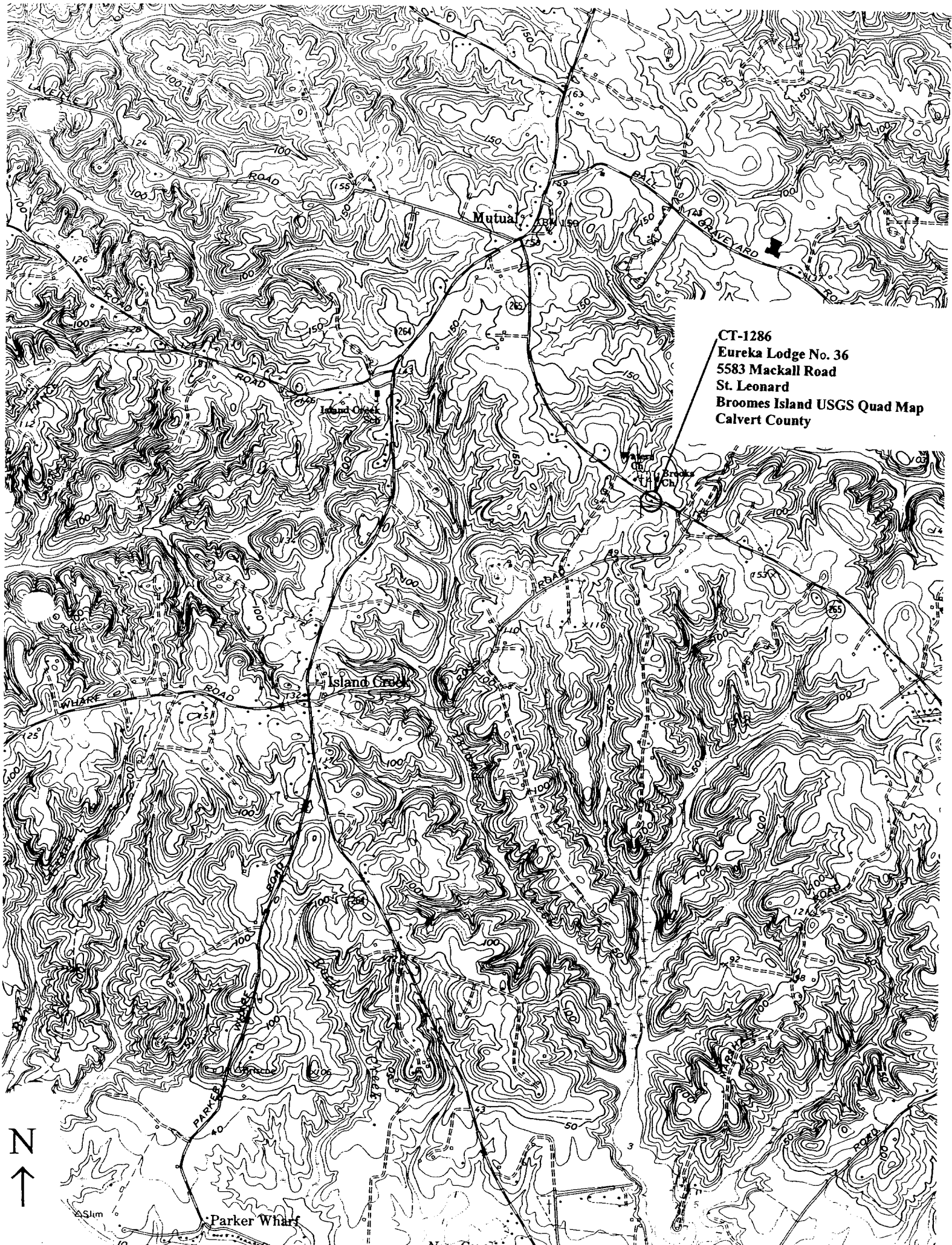
Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
CALVERT COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

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District - 01 Account Number - 128949



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For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning
web site at www.mdp.state.md.us



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Eureka Lodge No. 36
5583 Mackall Road
St. Leonard
Broomes Island USGS Quad Map
Calvert County



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Eureka Lodge No. 36

5583 Mackall Road

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

May 2002

Maryland SHPO

East Elevation, Looking West

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Eureka Lodge No. 36
5583 Mackall Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
NE Corner, Looking SW

2 OF 3



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Eureka Lodge No. 36
5583 Mackall Road
Calvert County, MD
EHT Traceries
May 2002
Maryland SHPO
SE Corner, Looking NW